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LETTER DATED 13 MAY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter dated 13 May 1991 which is addressed to you by Mr. Ahmed Hussein, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, concerning Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and statements made on 11 May 1991 by Mr. John Major, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 13 May 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that, even though Iraq is scrupulously complying with its obligations under the Security Council resolutions - resolutions which it moreover accepted - we continue to hear with great astonishment statements which are not in accordance with these resolutions. Among these statements, we refer to the appalling and arrogant statement made on 11 May 1991 by the British Prime Minister, Mr. John Major while appearing before the Congress of the Conservative Party held in Scotland, in which he maintained that the United Kingdom would not allow Iraq to rejoin the international community as long as President Saddam Hussein remained in power and that it would veto any resolution aimed at easing the sanctions imposed as long as the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein remained in power.

Paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) provides as follows: "Upon the approval by the Security Council of the programme called for in paragraph 19 and upon Council agreement that Iraq has completed all actions contemplated in paragraphs 8 to 13, the prohibitions against the import of commodities and products originating in Iraq and the prohibitions against financial transactions related thereto contained in resolution 661 (1990) shall have no further effect".

The United Kingdom, as a permanent member of the Security Council - the same body that adopted resolution 687 (1991), which Iraq agreed to implement - should have known that it, before any other country, must comply with the resolution that it helped to adopt, support all its provisions and await its implementation by Iraq before its Prime Minister should allow himself to make such a statement.

We ask ourselves, and all impartial men are with us: Why insist on taking in an a priori manner positions designed to harm the Iraqi people? Does this not mean that the United Kingdom, as a permanent member of the Security Council, seems fully prepared to violate its obligations and responsibilities under the Charter and do so in a premeditated way, without any valid legal reason and in blatant contradiction to those responsibilities?

If the declared purpose of the Security Council resolutions, including resolution 686 (1991), is to re-establish the situation in Kuwait, this goal has been achieved. Furthermore, if the avowed purpose is to make Iraq bear the consequences of what happened, there is no doubt that Iraq complied with the provisions of the resolutions in question after having demonstrated their extremely iniquitous nature and in spite of the arbitrary manner in which Iraq and its people were treated. This having been said, are these resolutions meant to force the Iraqi people to change its choices with regard to its purely internal affairs and renounce them?

This attitude on the part of the United Kingdom reveals to the members of the Council and to the States Members of the United Nations the root cause of the question as we explained it, namely that the plan to destroy Iraq and humiliate the Iraqi people had been drawn up before 2 August, that the destruction of Iraq and changing the regime in power (which was not provided for under any resolution) was one of the main objectives of everything which occurred and that it was not simply a question of re-establishing the status quo ante in Kuwait.

We warn against this dangerous precedent in international relations, which, if sanctioned, will destroy the entire basis on which the Charter of the United Nations rests and all the obligations under it.

We Iraqis have had long experience with British colonialists, who crushed our people for many years, plundered its wealth and attempted to decide its fate. Today, the British Prime Minister, John Major, reminds us of the same iniquitous policy by which they seek to impose their domination and interfere in the internal affairs of peoples. Thus, the British Prime Minister wishes to choose, for the Iraqi people, a leader other than President Saddam Hussein - a choice which is the right of the Iraqi people and not the master of Great Britain, who should have had the decency never to make such futile statements.

We call upon the members of the international community to firmly oppose such dangerous trends, which make narrow interests and views rules governing relations between States, in violation of the principle of sovereign equality and the right of peoples to choose freely their political, economic and social systems.

(Signed) Ahmed HUSSEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs